

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02332 091731Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----054191 091733Z /42

O R 091655Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6300

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 1426

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 2332

EXDIS

DEPT PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: SUSPICION OF US-UK COLLUSION ON RHODESIAN INTERNAL OPTION

1. DIRECT EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH LEADING ZAMBIANS IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND REPORTS OF THE VIEWS OF OTHERS, INDICATE CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION IN LUSAKA THAT THE US AND UK MAY BE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING AN INTERNAL OPTION IN RHODESIA. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS OCCURRENCE OF TLZO EVENTS: RENEWAL OF ACTIVITY IN THE U.S. AND BRITAIN TO SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT, AND SMITH'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION TO BE FOLLOWED BY A SETTLEMENT INSIDE RHODESIA. THE SUSPICION IS THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IS WORKING TOWARDS SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE

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WITH SMITH PERMITTING HIM TO STAGE AN ELECTION WHICH WOULD INSTALL MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE AS LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

2. IRRATIONAL AS SUCH A CONTENTION MAY BE, IT IS PERHAPS NO MORE SO THAN THE FEELING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA THAT THE U.S. AND UK ARE ALLOWING THE

PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DICTATE TERMS OF OUR PROPOSAL,

TO A CERTAIN DEGREE CRITICISM AND SUSPICION OF THE U.S. AND UK AS INTERMEDIARIES IS TO BE EXPECTED AND IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARILY HARMFUL FOR EACH OF THE PARTIES TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT IT.

3. NEVERTHELESS, I AM CONCERNED THAT MUZOREWA'S VISIT TO LONDON, COMING JUST AT THE TIME OF THE BOTHA MEETING WITH DR. OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE, WILL ADD CONSIDERABLE FUEL TO THE CONTENTION THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING SMITH'S INTERNAL OPTION. WE CERTAINLY HAVE EVERY REASON TO SEE MUZOREWA AS WELL AS NKOMO BUT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT IN JUXTAPOSITION WITH BOTHA'S SEEMS UNFORTUNATE. I UNDERSTAND THERE IS SOME THOUGHT THAT OWEN MAY SEE MUZOREWA TWICE: ONCE BEFORE THE BOTHA VISIT, AND THEN AGAIN AFTER IT. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS WOULD GREATLY STIMULATE SUSPICIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. FURTHERMORE, SUCH CONCERNS MIGHT CAUSE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS TO HESITATE IN ISSUING INVITATIONS TO DR. OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO MEET WITH THEM IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IF SUCH A MEETING WOULD APPEAR TO BE A FRONTLINE STAMP OF APPROVAL ON U.S.-UK SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPTION. AS A MINIMUM IT COULD CAUSE THE FRONTLINE LEADERS TO ISSUE STATEMENTS REINFORCING THEIR EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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